



Father Goriot



Honoré de Balzac

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Honoré de Balzac (1799-1850)
translated by Ellen Marriage

Father Goriot (Le Père Goriot), published in 1835, is widely considered to be Balzac's finest novel. It is set in Paris in 1819, after Napoleon's defeat and the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy. France was undergoing massive social upheaval as the new bourgeoisie jockeyed for position alongside the old aristocracy. Against this backdrop, we

follow the lives of Goriot, an old man who irrationally dotes on his daughters; Vautrin, a shadowy criminal mastermind; and Rastignac, a young man from the provinces who studies how to navigate the complexities and climb the ladder of Parisian society. Balzac's masterful use of physical and psychological detail makes this book a landmark in the development of realism in western literature.

Running time 11:27:18
Read by Bruce Pirie



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